

A NEW SPECIES OF *STEVIA* (ASTERACEAE, EUPATORIEAE) FROM
CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Stevia martinii* B.L. Turner, is described from a single collection obtained along the upper headwaters of the Río Mayo in Chihuahua, México. It is closely related to *S. glandulosa* but is readily distinguished by a number of features. An illustration of the new taxon is presented.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Stevia*, México

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

Stevia martinii B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* Fig. 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Chihuahua: Cardamena barranca, on Río Basaseachic (headwaters of Río Mayo), 6,000 ft, 14 Jun 1984, *P.S. Martin s.n.* (HOLOTYPE ARIZ!).

Steviae glandulosae Hook. & Arn. similis sed foliis crassioribus deltoideis vel subcordatis 1.0-1.3 plo longioribus quam latioribus (vs. diverse ovatis 1.9-3.0 plo longioribus quam latioribus), corollarum lobis dense pilosis (vs. sparsim pilosis vel glabris), et setis pappi 2-4 (vs. setae carens) differt.

Perennial suffruticose herbs or subshrubs to 30 cm high. Stems densely glandular villous with spreading hairs. Leaves opposite throughout, those at midstem mostly 4.0-5.5 cm long, 2-4 cm wide; petioles 1.5-2.0 cm long, pubescent like the stems; blades deltoid to subcordate, ca. as long as wide, glandular punctate and puberulous beneath, especially along the major veins, the margins crenulate. Heads numerous, arranged in congested terminal corymbs 3-6 cm across, 2-3 cm high. Involucres 5-6 mm high, pubescent with both



Fig. 1. *Stevia martinii*, from holotype.

glandular and eglandular spreading pilose hairs 0.15-0.25 mm long, the bracts with acute to acuminate apices. Corollas white or pale pink, ca. 6 mm long, the lobes 1.0-1.5 mm long, densely pilose externally. Achenes ca. 4 mm long, glabrous or nearly so (a few minute hispidulous hairs near the apex), the pappus of 2-4 awns 3-4 mm long, below these a low crown of scales ca. 0.4 mm high.

This taxon belongs to the *Fruticosae* series of *Stevia* as delimited in Grashoff's (1972) doctoral treatment, where it will key with difficulty to *Stevia glandulosa* Hook. & Arn. It is readily distinguished from the latter by its thicker, broader, deltoid to subcordate leaves, the blades ca. as wide as long (vs. variously ovate and 1.5-2.5 times as long as wide), densely pilose corolla lobes (vs. very sparsely pilose), and achenes with well defined bristles (vs. absent).

It is a pleasure to name this taxon for its only known collector, Dr. Paul Schultz Martin, Research Associate, Geochronology Laboratories, University of Arizona. He has made numerous important plant collections in northwestern México.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Grashoff, G. 1972. A systematic study of the North and Central American species of *Stevia*. Doctoral Dissertation, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.